

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 12 are pending. In the above-identified Office Action, the Examiner rejected the Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable by Weiser *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,982,507) hereinafter “Weiser”.

The Examiner suggested that at col. 4, lines 26 – 44 and col. 5, lines 1 – 6 Weiser teaches means for effecting communication of a document from a first client to a second client as email via a print functionality thereof. However, no such teaching is provided by the reference.

Col. 4, lines 26 – 44 of Weiser read as follows:

FIG. 1 shows a messaging environment 20 according to one embodiment of this invention. The phrase ‘messaging environment’ refers to a network in which a message, such as a file, a document or the like can be transmitted over the network. As used herein, the word message is used to refer to a unit of data which can be transferred within a networking environment, such as an e-mail message, an image, a file, a document, a record, and the like. Local area networks (LAN) 23, 35 contain various conventional network-attached apparatus such as network servers 32, 33 client computers 24, 25 and printers 26, 27, as well as apparatus which are not conventionally network-attached, such as digital copiers 28, 29 and scanners 30, 31. Networks 23, 35 can comprise any suitable communications technology such as Ethernet, Token-Ring, FDDI and the like, and any suitable networking topology such as IPX/SPX, TCP/IP and the like. Networks 23 can communicate with one another over a conventional wide area network 22.

and col. 5, lines 1 – 6 read:

As another example, a user could enter transmission data at digital copier 28 to request that all unopened e-mail messages of the user be transferred from within messaging environment 20 to digital copier 28. According to this invention, message transmission can include directing messages to and from a remote local area network, such as network 35 via WAN 22.

Hence, at most, the reference suggests a conventional networking arrangement. However, clearly no teaching is provided in the cited passages or elsewhere in the reference with respect to a system for distributing information having means for

effecting communication of a document from a first client to a second client **as email via a print functionality** thereof.

Accordingly, reconsideration, allowance and passage to issue are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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